

attitude of defence to meet whatever may happen. Sentinels therefore should be always upon the watch-tower, prepared for the worst; and none can be so fit and formidable as battalions, composed of such heads and hearts, as receive diplomas of proficiency, in this necessary branch of military education in whom the State may confide for the protection of its interests, from violence and desolation. In the use of a little foresight, the State may rear such a body guard. An enlightened structure of well disciplined militia men which by a natural necessary mutation, give room for younger materials to occupy their place, when they shall have retired to their homes-citizen soldiery.

Finally, should any influence effect a further stay, of the old worn out system, which from its commencement, 1798, has been re-enacted at about the run of every decade, without any variation in design or effect, I hope that it may be so modified as shall during public tranquillity, prohibit any grade of officers having among our volunteer corps. All such companies to be placed upon an independent footing—each, to assemble for parade and drill; whenever, and as often as they please, for I am satisfied that one afternoon company muster under a company officer, is worth more in learning how to handle musket and be exact in revolutionary moments, than fifty regimental parades, and however much superior officers may be pleased with consolidated displays, the men generally, dislike them—many will not attend, others reluctantly turn out upon such occasions, because attended with great fatigue at the same time, being of no value to the service.

I think it in place to offer to your notice, an address signed a Marylander, which was submitted to the last Legislature, in the hope that some favorable action would have been taken thereupon; but as I believe for want of time, did not receive (if any) that consideration due to its merits, and well deserves the attention of the representatives of Maryland, at the ensuing session of the Assembly, being a kindred theory without an interchange of thought between the author and myself and harmonizing as it does with the views herein set forth of the absolute necessity of giving successively military tuition to our youth, induces me to connect it with the within communication.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient serv't.

JOHN WILLMOT, *Adj. Gen.*